

31st Fighter Wing: The U.S. Air Force's fighter wing south of the Alps

THE VIGILEER

Vol. 53 No. 30

Aug. 3, 2007

Aviano Air Base, Italy

Fly Bys

Clinic closed

The weekend acute care clinic will be closed Saturday through Sep. 15. For more information, call Ext. 5035.

Training

Training on the new Air Force evaluations system is from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday and 9 to 10 a.m. Thursday in the Mass Briefing Facility. For more information, call Ext. 4686.

AOCSC

The Aviano Officer Civilian and Spouses Club general membership luncheon is at 11 a.m. Thursday at the La Bella Vista Club. The theme is "Take Off" and features foods from different countries and chances to volunteer at the upcoming Bella Befana Bazaar. The cost is \$10.25 for club members and \$12.25 for non-club members. People must RSVP by Sunday to aocsc.social@gmail.com.

Spouse It Up

The next Spouse It Up is at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday in Area D. The theme is summer picnic. For more information, call Ext. 5407.

Sgt. Maj. William Gainey visits Aviano



Photo by Airman 1st Class Liliana Moreno

Sgt. Maj. William Gainey, Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, talks to Airman Leadership School members Tuesday.

By Tech. Sgt.
Michael O'Connor

31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The first Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (SEAC), Command Sgt. Maj. William Gainey visited Airmen and Soldiers at the Aviano Airman Leadership School Tuesday.

During Sergeant Major Gainey's visit, he answered several questions from the Airmen and Soldiers and spoke about jointness between each of the services, tour lengths in support of operations in Afghanistan and Iraq and the importance of staying fit; mentally, physically and spiritually. He also discussed the importance of being a noncommissioned officer and first-line supervisor, and his roles and responsibilities as the SEAC.

The SEAC is a newly created position established to advise the CJCS on matters of professional development of enlisted personnel for a joint environment. Sergeant Major Gainey is the first person selected to serve in this position beginning October 1, 2005.

"I'm in your organizational structure, but I'm not in your chain of command," said Sergeant Major Gainey. "I go out and petition and look for common issues between all of the services affecting our troops and families and take them back to each

See SEAC, Page 7

Singers: National Anthem singers are needed for softball games at 9 a.m. Aug. 16 and Aug. 24. Call Ext. 5178 for info.

World's Finest
MMVA/DUI counter

6 days ...

Since Aviano's last DUI.

102 ...

Major Motor Vehicle Accidents



Pilot for a day

A terminally ill boy's wish comes true when he visits Aviano and becomes an honorary 510th Fighter Squadron pilot.

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Festival

Aviano hosts an International Folklore Festival. The festival includes food and activities from around the world.

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Vigileer
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Deadline info: The deadline for submitting information is close of business Thursday one week prior to publication. Send all information by e-mail to the Vigileer at vigileer@aviano.af.mil. Faxed articles will not be accepted. The public affairs office is located in Bldg. 1360, Rm. 19. The Vigileer staff can be reached at Ext. 7344.

Editorials: We want to hear from you. Flex your writing talents and share your thoughts with the community. Commentaries must be 500 to 700 words. Topics must be applicable to the Air Force, Aviano and appeal to the general public.

World's Finest: Messages can be submitted for appreciation, retirements, awards, good service, promotions and graduations.

From the Top: Those Who Lead

31st Maintenance Group

Commander's Corner

By Lt. Col. Ike Isenhour
*31st Maintenance Group
Deputy Commander*

Do you sew on your own badges or alter your own uniform items? Even if you don't, to be a successful Airman in a successful unit, you still need to master the skills of a seamster.

Prevailing wisdom in our profession is that seams are bad. Most of us have at least one enlisted or officer performance report that relates how we "seamlessly" solved a problem. A simple Web search yields numerous examples of every military service using doctrine, training, and organization to eliminate seams. Seamlessness would be a great thing in an ideal world. But just like friction, taxes, picnic ants and the ice cream headache, seams are here to stay.

Every Airman, aircraft and spacecraft can't be assigned to one wing, at one base, commanded by one general. Span of control, physical limitations, and the diversity of our demanding missions make that impossible. So, seams abound—between individuals and among shops, flights, squadrons, and groups.

At Aviano, the World's Finest (Airmen, allies, civilians and contractors), with markedly different skills and backgrounds are assigned to different organizations from different physical locations. They come together safely and effectively execute hundreds of aircraft sorties each week, in training, contingency, and combat.

Try to count the interactions among different shops and offices all across base—each a seam with the potential to cause failure—that produce the deceptively simple and routine sight of an F-16 above the Dolomites. Now extend that web of seams (interactions) to headquarters, sister wings, and geographically separated units. You'll surely lose count, yet each is a necessary seam.

So what do we do about these "bad" seams?

I propose we view them as great opportunities to strengthen ourselves, our Air Force and its mission. Each is an intersection where differences meet: skills, equipment, personalities and procedures. The list goes on.

We need to focus on those intersections as does a seamster creating a well-made garment. Where two pieces of fabric, some alike and others different,

are joined, he ensures there's a double layer of material, and carefully places each stitch for maximum strength. The seamster knows the fabric is inherently strong but when cut and joined to another by only thread, it needs to be doubled

—reinforced—to ensure the strength is carried across the intersection to the other side. Under tension, a garment's material often tears before the carefully crafted seams fail.

In the Air Force, we have the same challenge. Our personnel and equipment are strong. It's when we match them to other organizations and their personnel and equipment that we sometimes encounter breakdowns and the seams don't hold.

Have you threaded your needle in your unit? Do you recognize where the seams are, both the obvious intersections and the more subtle? Have you applied some well-placed stitches around that new Airman to ensure he becomes a solid part of your section? Have you identified the seams between different echelons of your unit, between you and your subordinates and your supervisors? Have you doubled them?

Each time you earn greater rank and responsibility, do you identify the new seams and new pieces of cloth that join yours? Ask your supervisor for insight into what new stitches are needed to make those seams stronger. Find out what lessons were learned that kept their eyes sensitive to those telltale cables that signal a seam in need of repair, reinforcement or replacement?

Are you prepared for new seams to be added and familiar ones replaced as we streamline our processes? If you value your seams, others will value theirs. If you don't, they'll mirror your neglect.

Hone those needles, keep them at the ready, and focus on the seams, lest we become a tangle of tattered rags instead of the strong, cohesive blue canvas that is our Air Force. So go out there and follow the lead of Betsy Ross, that great American who sewed the flag and taught us ... it's all about the seam!



Aviano Volunteer of the Week

Name: Elizabeth Skoglund

Why nominated: Mrs. Skoglund, a spouse of an Army officer assigned to Aviano Air Base, volunteers as a nurse in the 'same day surgery' department of the 31st Medical Group hospital. She also volunteers throughout the base community as the president of Protestant Women of the Chapel and as a teacher during Vacation Bible School. Her next adventure will be the Bella Befana Bazaar this fall.





Photos by Senior Airman Steven Doty



Triple Nickel Airmen exercise in Korea

Above: F-16s from the 35th and 80th Fighter Squadron and the 555th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron taxi down the Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea's runway after returning from a training mission during the Peninsula-Wide Combat Employment Response Exercise, or PENCERE July 26. The Triple Nickel is deployed to Korea for a four-month Air Expeditionary Force rotation.

Left: Tech. Sgt. Michael Rhudy, 555th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron, calls in a report after a simulated missile attack during the PENCERE exercise.

Aviano 5/6: Aviano 5/6 meets at 3 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at the Professional Development Center.

Crime in the local area

Courtesy of the 31st Security Forces Squadron

July 16 – An Airman discovered several items missing from his dorm room including Xbox 360 games and an iPod. *No, he didn't have a sign saying "Open Room, Help Yourself," but he should have because he didn't lock the room either. Apparently the lock wasn't working?*

July 16 – An Airman reported the theft of a government-issued washing machine, a DVD player, and stereo from the laundry room of her residence. After the theft, a neighbor told her all the laundry room keys are the same throughout the apartment building. *Would've been good to know information before the theft! Did anyone see someone walking out of the building with a washing machine strapped to their back?*

July 18 – An Army Air Force Exchange Service loss prevention professional detained a 17-year old American minor with no military affiliation for shoplifting. He was sponsored on base and escorted into the exchange by his 16-year old girlfriend's mother, an active-duty spouse. *Talk about an embarrassing situation with your girlfriend's mother! Boy, will he have some explaining to do!*

July 19 – An Airman's spouse reported that someone attempted to break into her house during the night. When she woke up in the morning she discovered damage to her front door and window shutter. *Fortunately, the locked shutters not only keep out the heat and sunlight, they also deter thieves when locked.*

July 19 – An Airman left his backpack unattended on a table at the base pool and "persons unknown" stole his wallet that contained his ID card, a debit card, \$10 cash, and family photos. *Fortunately the Airman was wise and only kept the bare essentials in the wallet.*

July 20 – An Airman reported the theft of his GPS system and a camera from his vehicle. *Believe it or not, the Airman wasn't sure if he locked the car! As a crime prevention tip, we repeat over and over again, secure your valuables out of sight and lock your car!*

July 20 – An Airman reported loud music coming from the Area Two dorms. Security Forces sent a patrol to ask the individual to turn down the music. *Be a good neighbor and keep your music to a tolerable level – theirs, not yours. Also, if someone is playing music too loudly, we encourage you to ask them to turn the music down before calling security forces. Being a considerate neighbor works both ways.*

July 22 – An Airman reported suspicious activity outside his residence when he saw a large white van with a roof rack parked out front. An adult male, adult female and a child were in the van and approached his residence asking for food. The member declined and contacted security forces. *This could have been an attempt to get inside the residence to either take something or scope out the area for a possible break-in later.*

July 22 – An Airman reported her purse was stolen out of her vehicle, which she left unattended and unlocked. *The purse, containing her military ID card, a debit card, driver's license, cell phone, sunglasses, car keys, \$20 cash, was left in plain view until a thief took it!*

Okay, so who gets the not-so-prestigious Blotter Bonehead Award? This week it goes to the 17-year old shoplifter who had to explain to his girlfriend's mom why he was trying to steal a pack of condoms!

To report suspicious behavior, call the law enforcement desk at Ext. 7200.

From SEAC page 1

of the services to see how we can make things better.”

Sergeant Major Gainey said the reason why each service serves different tour lengths in Afghanistan and Iraq is based upon their service's frame; for the Air Force its aircrafts, for the Navy and Marine Corps its ships, and for the Army its equipment. The driving force behind these frames, he said, is the cost to send equipment and resources from point A to point B, and the personnel required to utilize and maintain those assets, which is why Soldiers are serving longer individual tour lengths.

“I look at jointness amongst our services kind of like an apple pie in that each service is a vital ingredient that makes up the whole,” said Sergeant Major Gainey. “In a 26-month cycle, an Airman or Marine can expect to be deployed 14 months and Soldiers for 15 months based on deployment rotations. Don't ever look down upon your fellow Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors, Marines or Coasties because the person sitting next to you at the DFAC appears to be deployed for less time than you. Everyone is doing their part,” he said.

“I just left Iraq and Afghanistan last week and I got a chance to talk with Staff Sergeant Torres from the 82nd Airborne, a 26-year-old with six years of service,” said the

sergeant major. “I asked him how many rotations he'd been on thus far and he said five, which, when you do the math it adds up to most of his [career]. I said Ok – question for you. How many more are you willing to do? I'll never forget his answer until the day I lay my head on my pillow and die. He said ‘As many as it takes to keep my baby free Sergeant Major.’”

The first SEAC to the CJCS told the young men and women that if they have a dream, a hope, or a desire, not to let any human being with two legs tell them they can't reach their goals – nobody – period, he said, so long as you can answer the following five questions with a ‘No.’

Is it going to hurt someone else? Is it going to hurt me if properly trained? Is it illegal? Is it immoral? Is it going to bring disgrace to my family name or the service I serve in? “If you answer ‘No’ to all five questions, then go for the gusto,” said Sergeant Major Gainey. “But if you answer yes, I'd ask that you take a step back ... and this goes for anything you want to do in your life ... take a step back and say, ‘What do I need to do to change that ‘Yes’ into a ‘No?’ and then go for the gusto because you only have one life,” he said.

Home fuels sale: The 31st Services Squadron Home Fuels is offering a \$50 discount on each thousand liters of gasolio through Aug. 31.



Photos by Airman 1st Class Liliana Moreno

Demonstrating discipline

Above, left: The U.S. Air Force Honor Guard Drill Team performs for youth at the Aviano Youth Center gym Monday. The team consists of current honor guard members throughout the Air Force. Their performance included weapons maneuvers, tosses, complex weapons exchanges and a walk through spinning weapons. For more information on the team, visit <http://www.honorguard.af.mil/drillteam>.



Never giving up, little boy's dreams come true



Photos by Staff Sgt. Micahel Holzworth

**By Staff Sgt.
Colleen Wieman**
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

A little boy fighting for his life made a wish that came true July 27.

Six-year-old Daniele Montico, who has leukemia, made a wish to see American military aircraft take off. He got much more than what he wished for when he and his family took a tour of Aviano Air Base.

"It was very tough to motivate him to go through chemotherapy," said his father, Mauro Montico, Belluno State Police chief inspector. "While in therapy, I asked him about a wish, and he wished to see American jets. I promised him that we will go see them and that promise gave him enough willpower to continue through therapy."

Daniele was diagnosed with leukemia in November 2006. He immediately received chemotherapy and was in treatment until late April at a Padova

hospital. During the first round of treatment he received severe burns that threatened amputation to his left arm and leg. The amputation was avoided when he was placed in a hyperbaric chamber.

He will return to chemotherapy later this month for another year. After this treatment, he has to remain cancer free for five years.

When Daniele made his wish, his father addressed his son's request to a non-profit cultural foundation called "Liberal." The foundation called the U.S. Consulate in Milan, who in turn contacted the 31st Fighter Wing. Daniele's family was hoping just to watch a U.S. jet, but when the 510th Fighter Squadron heard about him, they decided to make him a "pilot for the day."

During his visit to the base, Daniele received a resized flight suit and an honorary 510th Fighter Squadron pilot certificate.

His family was shown the equipment pilots use for life support, the flight simulator where his whole family got to take a shot at 'flying,' the UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter and an F-16.

Daniele said he was honored the wing commander came to visit him during his tour and he appreciated Maj. August Marquardt, 510th FS pilot who led the 510th portion of the tour, answering his questions.

Although he said he liked everything he saw, Daniele said his favorite parts of the tour were the fighters and the helicopter.

His family said that he was excited to see his dream come true especially after what he went through last year. They added that hopefully this experience will give him the courage to approach the next cycle of chemotherapy.

The 31st Fighter Wing would like to thank Mrs. Franca Sanson, who, in three days, was able to resize a flight suit so Daniele could be dressed like a pilot.

Above: Six-year-old honorary pilot "Capt." Daniele Montico shows off a pin he received on his tour of the base July 27.

Right: Daniele and his brother Andrea, 9, check out an F-16 while Maj. August Marquardt, 510th Fighter Squadron pilot, explains each component.



Left: Army 2nd Lt. Jose Marquez, 52nd Aviation Regiment G Company, shows Daniele the cockpit of a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter. During his tour, Daniele and his brother sat in the cockpits of the helicopter and an F-16 and he and his family got to ride in the base flight simulator.

Fly Bys

Local events

- The following places have upcoming local festivals: Tramonti di Sotto Saturday to Sunday and Aug 10-19, Montereale Valcellina from Saturday to Sunday, and Nave di Fontanafredda through Aug. 6.

- Cimolais hosts a festival celebrating "Ferragosto," a traditional Italian holiday, Saturday and Sunday, and Aug. 10-16.

- Cormons, near Gorizia, is hosting a "Jazz and Wine of Peace" concert featuring international groups, food and wine tasting.

- Paluzza, an hour north of Udine, hosts a summer evening festival every night through August with a different folklore group performing and food booths.

- Spilimbergo will have concerts and grilled fish and meat during there Summer festival today through Sunday.

Additionally Spilimbergo hosts a medieval reenactment Aug. 10-16 in the downtown area.

- Arba will host a sporting event festival through Aug. 15.

- Sacile hosts a bird festival from Aug. 11-19.

For more information on events in the local area, call Ext. 7555.

Ride the rails

Travel Italy and Europe by train. Visit <http://www.trenitalia.it> for train schedules and tickets.

Web site

Americans with travel plans should visit <http://travel.state.gov> to get the latest travel advisories in Europe. The U.S. Department of State-run Web site offers a list of places suspected of anti-American activity as well as other pertinent information for travelers. Call the Office of Special Investigations at Ext. 7643 with questions about the site.

Blend in

Take precautions to avoid being a target of crime. Don't wear conspicuous clothing or jewelry, carry excessive amounts of money, leave baggage unattended in public areas and accept packages from strangers.

International Folklore Festival

Courtesy of 31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Singing, dancing and international culture abound when revelers attend the 39th Annual International Folklore Festival in Aviano and Piancavallo Thursday through Aug. 15.

The celebration features performers in cultural dress, regional music, traditional dancing, international cuisine and vendors from all over the world.

Additionally, Clog America, an American cultural dance troupe from Utah, will perform each night. For more information on the troupe, visit <http://www.clogamerica.org/>.

The location for all events, unless otherwise noted, is the sport area in front of Aviano's Hotel Posta reserve parking area. Hotel Posta is near the main square and Aviano Post Office.

The following is a schedule of folklore festival events:

Thursday

9:15 p.m. – The 39th International Folklore Festival Aviano-Piancavallo official welcome reception at the Aviano square

Aug. 11

5 p.m. – Markets, cultural exhibits and refresh-

ments booths open

9:15 p.m. – A dancing group from Aviano, the U.S., Russia, Paraguay, Croatia, Vojvodina and Reggio Calabria in Italy will be selected to perform.

Aug. 12

10:30 a.m. – Holy Mass at the Aviano Post Office with all folk groups attending

11:30 a.m. – Parade starting in Aviano and marching through the surrounding area. Also a show will be performed.

5 p.m. – Markets, cultural exhibits and refreshments booths open

9:15 p.m. – A dancing group from Aviano, the U.S., Russia, Paraguay, Croatia, Vojvodina and Reggio Calabria in Italy will be selected to perform.

Aug. 13

5 p.m. – Markets, cultural exhibits and refreshments booths open

9:15 p.m. – Popular games from around the world will be played

Aug. 14

5 p.m. – Markets, cultural exhibits and refreshments booths open



Above: Gruppo Folkloristico perform during the 2006 International Folklore Festival in Aviano.

Left, Right: Sbandierato di Cori, perform during the 39th International Folklore Festival in Piancavallo (left) and in Aviano square (right). The 39th International Folklore Festival is Thursday through Aug. 15.

Folklore Festival comes to Aviano

Aviano,
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9:15 p.m. – "Anime Salve" De Andre' cover band will perform

9:15 p.m. – Parts of the Folklore Festival will move to the main square in Pordenone

Aug. 15

9:15 p.m. – A dancing group from Aviano, the U.S., Russia, Paraguay, Croatia, Venezuela and Reggio Calabria in Italy will be selected to perform.

The "Danzerini di Aviano" is the host of the International Folklore Festival. In their 70 years, they obtained both national and international recognition, taking part in numerous tours throughout the world.

The group, formed in 1924, inherited its name from one of its main founders.

The first documented performances of the "Danzerini di Aviano" are from the middle of the 19th century. The "minstrels of the dance" of Aviano were called to dance in front of the ruler Udine Ferdinand I in 1838 and for Francis Joseph in Pordenone in 1852.

The groups' costumes and dances are similar to the costumes worn by people in the local area two centuries ago.

In the 18th century, the people of Aviano were renowned for their costumes and cheerful dances performed during the wedding parties.

For more information on the International Folklore Festival, call Ext. 7555.

Information, Tickets and Travel

Upcoming tours from the Information, Tickets and Travel office include:

- **Saturday** – Shopping Venice and Gondola Ride
- **Saturday** – Verona Opera La Traviata
- **Saturday** – San Marino and Castle of Gradara
- **Aug. 10-12** – The French Riviera (Monaco, Monte Carlo, Nice and Cannes)
- **Aug. 11** – Guided Verona and Medieval Times
- **Aug. 11** – Castles in Carinthia, Austria
- **Aug. 18** – Croatia by boat
- **Aug. 18** – Slovenia BTC park mall shopping
- **Aug. 24-26** – Overnight Rome Express
- **Aug. 25** – Wine and Balsamic Vinegar and Ferrari museum
- **Aug. 25** – Guided Florence

Tour schedules are subject to change. ITT escorts ensure the group arrives and departs from destinations as scheduled and will do everything possible to make the trip safe and comfortable. Escorts also provide general information about the area.

Please note weather conditions and dress accordingly. The ITT staff recommends wearing comfortable shoes because most tours involve walking. To sign up for a tour or to view tour schedules, visit www.31sys-aviano.com. For more information, call Ext. 5072 or 5026.



Photos by Airman 1st Class Liliana Moreno

IJOLD

A professional military leadership course for reserve company grade officers is from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday through Aug. 11 at the La Bella Vista Club.

The International Junior Officer Leadership Development course will provide curriculum focused on leadership fundamentals, cultural diversity and critical thinking. All officers are invited to attend an icebreaker at 5:30 p.m. Sunday in Area D. For more information, call Capt. Patrick Bass at Ext. 5797.

Sign language

An American Sign Language Level I course begins at 5 p.m. Tuesday and will continue every Tuesday in the conference room of Bldg. 1467, the same building as the Mensa. The class is free and no experience is necessary. For more information, call Anthony Warner at Ext. 7022 or Francisco Sierra at 348-405-0236.

Baby care

The New Parent Support Program is hosting a basic baby care course for expecting and new parents.

The course is from 5

to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday in Area One, Bldg. 108. The course is taught by registered nurses and will cover infant cues, safety, parenting, discipline, growth and developmental stage. To sign up, call Ext. 5667.

Twilight camp

The Aviano Girl Scouts is hosting a carnival-themed Twilight Camp from 5 to 9 p.m. Aug. 13-17 at Area D.

Participants learn how different countries put on carnivals through crafts, games and food. The Girl Scouts also need volunteers. For more information, to volunteer, or to register a Girl Scout, call 334-267-5288 or e-mail avianogs@yahoo.com.

PWOC

The Protestant Women of the Chapel is studying "Bad Girls of the Bible" from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesdays at the Area F Temporary Lodging Facility park. People are encouraged to bring a lawn chair or blanket and children are welcome.

For more information, contact Liz Skoglund at 328-887-6206 or

liznordberg2002@yahoo.com.

Women's equality

The Women's Equality Day committee is hosting an Equality Day showcase at 3:30 p.m. Aug. 28 at the La Bella Vista Club. The event will honor the women's movement through music, poetry and essay readings. For more information, e-mail Senior Master Sgt. Tracie Adams at tracie.adams@aviano.af.mil.

Credit card

If someone discovers a charge on their credit card that seems incorrect, they have 60 days from the billing date to dispute it. The credit card company will not pay the merchant until the dispute is resolved.

Also, the maximum liability on a stolen credit card is \$50 and some card companies will waive the fee. For more information, call Tom Snyder at Ext. 5656.

Unclaimed mail

Mail not picked up from the post office within certain timeframes will be considered unclaimed and returned to sender. Express mail is considered unclaimed after eight days from the first notice. Non-express parcels are considered unclaimed after 15 days from the first notice. Letters left in mail receptacles for 30 days are also considered unclaimed.

Events

The 31st Fighter Wing Threat Working Group must review on and off-base large events for force protection concerns. Event coordinators must submit an event submission form, which can be found on the Aviano Intranet under "references." For more information, call Ext. 4236 or 8188.

Central Texas College

Central Texas College is offering classes in fire protection technology, automotive technician, applied management, criminal justice, early childhood

and microsoft certification degree and certificate programs. Registration is through Aug. 17. For more information, call Ext. 5143 or e-mail aviano@europe.ctcd.edu.

UMUC

The University of Maryland University College Europe is accepting registration Monday through Aug. 17 for Term I. For more information, e-mail aloper@ed.umuc.ed.

University of Phoenix

University of Phoenix is starting a new master's of business in administration class Aug. 29. The class is a non-thesis, 39 credit hours degree program. For more information, contact Tara Carlsrud at Ext. 5139 or tara.carlsrud@phoenix.edu.

Oklahoma University

Oklahoma University is hosting an Intercultural Communication seminar Sept. 11-16. The seminar applies to Oklahoma University's master of arts degree in international relations and the master of arts degree in human relations. The deadline to sign up is Aug. 13. For more information, call Ext. 5977 or e-mail apaviano@ou.edu.

Heritage

The Aviano Native American Heritage committee is seeking volunteers to help in the planning of November's events. The committee will meet once a month for event planning. To volunteer, contact Master Sgt. Timothy Garcia at Ext. 7478 or timothy.garcia@aviano.af.mil.

CCAF

The Community College of the Air Force cutoff date for the October graduating class is Aug. 31. People who are completing classes this term must make sure they request their transcripts to go directly to CCAF. For more information, call Ext. 5330.

Reel Times

Today, 7 p.m. – "Hairspray" Rated PG – A girl has a dream of dancing on a TV dance show. The girl seems like a natural fit for the show, except her plus size figure makes her stand out. Starring: John Travolta, Queen Latifah

Saturday, 2 p.m. – "Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End" Rated PG-13 – Captain Jack Sparrow is trapped in Davy Jones' locker and his friends are united to save him. Starring: Johnny Depp, Orlando Bloom

Saturday, 7 p.m. – "Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End" Rated PG-13

Sunday, 7 p.m. – "Mr. Brooks" Rated R – A loving father and devoted husband has a secret – he is an insatiable serial killer. Starring: Kevin Costner, William Hurt

Monday, noon – "Cars" Rated G – A race car ends up in a small town where he finds the true meaning of friendship. Animated

Wednesday, 7 p.m. – "Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End" Rated PG-13

Thursday, 7 p.m. – "Gracie" Rated PG-13 – A teenage girl overcomes the loss of her brothers and achieves her dream of playing competitive soccer. Starring Dermot Mulroney, Andrew Shue

(Titles and times are courtesy of www.aafes.com, and are subject to change.)

Fly Bys

Non-athlete triathlon

The community center is hosting a non-athlete triathlon competition Saturday. Participants will compete in darts, foosball and pool. People may pre-register by e-mailing diana.frayne@aviano.af.mil.

Registration begins at 3 p.m. the day of the event. Competition will begin shortly after. The event is for people ages 18 and older. For more information, call Ext. 5479.

Mystery night

The base library is hosting a mystery night from 8 to 10 p.m. Aug. 10. Audience members will help solve the case of "Angela Day," about a teenager who mysteriously disappeared. People interested in being a cast member, can call Amber Collins at Ext. 5389.

Hip hop

A hip hop workshop is from 11 a.m. to noon Aug. 20-24 at the community center. The cost is €45 per person. Additionally, beginning in September, the community center will host hip hop dance classes from 5 to 6 p.m. Wednesdays. The cost is €40 per person, per month. For more information, call Ext. 5479.

Spiderman

Spiderman will visit various Aviano locations Aug. 22. For more information, call the community center at Ext. 5479.

Prize drawing

U.S. Air Forces in Europe Services and Exchange New Car Sales are giving away a Jeep for the Air Force's 60th birthday. People can enter the prize drawing by filling out entry forms available at services facilities or by at the USAFE birthday bash Web site. All entries must be received to USAFE services headquarters by Dec. 14. Contest rules, entry forms and eligibility requirements can be found at www.usafebirthdaybash.org.

Chely Wright rocks Aviano

*Courtesy 31st Fighter Wing
Public Affairs*

She may not be a rock star, but country singer Chely Wright rocked Hangar One July 27. She is best known for her hits such as "Single White Female" and "Shut Up and Drive."

Ms. Wright comes from a military family. During her childhood, she performed at Veteran's hospitals and military funerals. Ms. Wright has been all over the world entertaining troops from Iraq to Japan and now Aviano. Her visit here was part of her USO and Armed Forces Entertainment tour.



Above: Chely Wright performs at Hangar One July 27. More than 500 people came to the performance.



Photos by Christinda Swede

Left: Rorie Jenkins meets Chely Wright at her concert.

Right: Chely Wright performs as a young couple dances.



New competition to debut at AF Marathon

By Kathleen Lopez

*Air Force Materiel Command
Public Affairs*

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio – Which Air Force major command comprises the fastest, fittest flock of fine physiques?

The answer may become clear Sept. 15 at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio when a new type of competition for active-duty Air Force servicemembers debuts at this year's Air Force Marathon.

The Major Command Challenge is a new feature intended to spur friendly competition among Airmen assigned to the Air Force's nine major commands.

"The number of runners who have registered so far is several hundred higher than last year at this time, and we're hoping the MAJCOM Challenge will accelerate that burst in participation," said Molly Loudon, the Air Force Marathon director.

The MAJCOM Challenge winner will be the Air Force major command with the highest participation rates and best performances in the full- and half-marathon races. In turn, that MAJCOM will retain bragging rights for having the best runners in the service until next year, when the trophy travels to the next winning command.

Looking for a way to increase active-duty participation, Gen. Bruce Carlson initiated the MAJCOM Challenge. The commander of

Air Force Materiel Command, which annually hosts the marathon at Wright-Patterson, unveiled the trophy at a meeting of Air Force senior leaders earlier this year.

Participation is measured based on the actual percentage of active-duty military members in each MAJCOM, Ms. Loudon said. Points are awarded according to the percentage of a command's active-duty members who participate. Overall winners in both the half- and full-marathon races earn points for their commands as well, provided they are active-duty Air Force members. Additionally, each age group's winner – of both genders and in both races – is awarded a specified number of points.

The award is a traveling trophy, Ms. Loudon said. Each year, the same trophy will be presented to the winning MAJCOM commander at the annual fall gathering of Air Force senior leaders. A plaque will be awarded to the previous year's winning command when it relinquishes the trophy to the new winner. If the same command wins again, it will keep the trophy for another year. Each winner is recognized by a nameplate engraved with its name, which is mounted on the trophy.

There is still enough time to train for either the half- or full-marathon, Ms. Loudon said, but the opportunity is rapidly closing. Active-duty members are authorized permissive temporary duty to participate, if their supervisors approve. For more information, log onto www.usafmarathon.com.

Meeting: An athletic meeting for all high school sports is at 6 p.m. Aug. 16 at the Aviano High School.

Aviano soccer team wins

The Aviano Air Base soccer team went head-to-head with the Cimpello soccer team Saturday at Area D as a way to further unite the civilian and military communities. The Aviano team won 4 to 1. 'We have a great team,' said Omer Sanabria, Aviano Air Base soccer team coach pictured at right. 'We work hard and 4 to 1 is the compensation for our efforts.' The game was hosted by Lt. Col. Greg Brown, 31st Mission Support Squadron commander and his Honorary Squadron Commander Lorenzo Cella, President of the Pordenone Italian National Olympic Committee. Mr. Cella hosted a previous soccer match off base and Colonel Brown returned the favor by hosting this match at Area D. A barbecue followed the game. 'It was a good time, there was camaraderie all around,' Colonel Brown said. 'We look forward to more opportunities to bring our communities together.'



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Christopher Ford

Fly Bys

Flag football

The flag football season start date has changed to Aug. 13. To set up team practices, call the Dragon Fitness Center at Ext. 7459.

AYP soccer

Aviano Youth Programs is accepting registration through Aug. 17 for soccer. Practice will start Aug. 27 and the season will end Oct. 20. Volunteer coaches will also be needed. For more information, call Wayne Hilbert at Ext. 7575 or 4784.

Marathon

The fitness center is hosting a 5 kilometer, 10K, half and full marathon Oct. 20. For more information, call Jennifer Kellner at Ext. 7459.

Youth dance

Aviano Youth Programs is offering dance classes for youth ages 3 and older. Classes include: creative dance, ballet, Broadway and ballet jazz. Registration begins Monday. The monthly cost is \$25 for members and \$30 for nonmembers. For more information or to register, call Ext. 7575.

Volleyball

The women's varsity volleyball team is looking for players and coaches for the upcoming season. A pre-season kick-off volleyball game is from 1 to 4 p.m. Aug. 12 at the Dragon Fitness Center. For more information, e-mail Jessica Jackson at jessica.jackson@aviano.af.mil.

Pedala

The 35th Annual Pordenone Pedala is Sept. 9. The pedala is a 50k non-competitive bike ride for all ages. The entry fee is €6 per person and includes a lunch at the half-way point and a pasta meal at the finish line. The deadline to sign up is Sept. 7. To sign up, call Linda Romanin at Ext. 4790.

A leader's passing: One Airman's point of view

by Airman
Sara Csurilla
47th Flying Training
Wing

LAUGHLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – I was recently invited to attend a memorial service for Gary R. Pfingston, the 10th chief master sergeant of the Air Force, with Chief Master Sgt. Bruce Heinzen, the 47th Flying Training Wing command chief, and Master Sgt. Joe Morse, the 47th Security Forces Squadron first sergeant.

Me, an Airman, rubbing elbows with a command chief master sergeant and a first sergeant. It was an incredible opportunity in one of the most intimidating atmospheres I've ever been in.

From the moment I walked in the church (the very same church I attended in basic training only 10 months ago) an overwhelming sense of respect for this enlisted leader came over me.



Photo by Senior Airman Daniel DeCook

Former chief master sergeants of the Air Force gathered Feb. 14, 2006, with then CMSAF Gerald Murray in uniform. Chief Gary Pfingston is in the front row with his hand resting on the rail. Chief Pfingston died of cancer June 23 in San Antonio.

Chief Pfingston helped produce many things that will continue to impact enlisted careers for years to come, such as the Career Field Education and Training Plan, three-level and seven-level technical schools, and opening additional Air

Force jobs to women.

He began his career in the Air Force as a B-52 Strato-fortress crew chief, and then served as a military training instructor in 1973. In 1979 he became the commandant of the Military Training Instructor School.

Chief Pfingston became a first sergeant in 1982 and then served as a senior enlisted adviser to several bases including Bergstrom Air Force Base, Texas, and Pacific Air Forces headquarters at Hickam AFB, Hawaii.

When he became the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force in August 1990, I was only 3 years old.

Now at 20 I'm serving in our world's strongest military, and a man who battled to keep our Air Force strong during a time of tremendous downsizing has passed away. As an enlisted Air Force member, I feel we truly lost a great chief.

Chief Pfingston made incredible changes that will shape the face of the Air Force forever, and has really inspired me to take every chance I get to be a leader.

From an Airman's point of view, the experience was an exceptional opportunity to learn and grow in respect for our enlisted leaders, who blazed a trail for all of us to follow.



The Chiefs' Choice Award is presented to top performers whose daily efforts distinguish them from their peers, and, because they sometimes work behind the scenes, they are often unrecognized.

Recipients are nominated and voted for by the Aviano Chiefs' Group.

UPCLOSE

and personal with Aviano's best



Courtesy photo

Senior Airman Stacey Low, 31st Fighter Wing Legal Office, displays her Chief's Choice award with Aviano Chiefs Group members.

Senior Airman Stacey Low, 31st Fighter Wing Legal Office, was selected for the Chief's Choice award for the outstanding customer support she provides as a key member of the military justice section.

Airman Low prepares and reviews nonjudicial proceeding actions and court-martial charges and specifications under the Uniform Code of Military Justice and tracks pending military investigations including foreign criminal jurisdiction cases.

She also assists trial counsel in interviews of victims and witnesses, prepares inputs for the Automated Military Justice Analysis Management System database, as well as powers of attorney, affidavits and notaries.